MINUTES

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

FIFTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Cahaba Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

MARS HILL CHURCH, PERRY COUNTY, ALA.,

October 17th, 18th and 19th, 1868.

OFFICERS:

MODERATOR.....REV. J. S. FORD, Perry County.
CLERK.....PROF. A. B. GOODHUE, Marion, Ala.

Atlanta, Georgia:
FRANKLIN STEAM PRINTING HOUSE—J. J. TOON, PROPRIETOR.
1868.

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MINUTES.

MARS HILL CHURCH, PERRY CO., ALA., }
Saturday, Oct. 17, 1868. }

The delegates from the churches composing the Cahaba Association met, pursuant to adjournment, with the Mars Hill church, (the Mt. Edon and Mt. Pleasant churches having, during the year past, united and formed a new church, under the name of Mars Hill,) and listened to the Introductory sermon, by Rev. J. M. Heard.

After a short recess, the letters were read, and the names of the delegates enrolled as follows, viz:

Providence—J. F. Hawell, G. W. Howell, E. White.

Pisgah—J. W. Melton, E. W. Garrison, C. C. Farrow, W. C. Ogburn.

Mt. Pleasant, Hale Co.—W. A. Bishop, A. M. Hill, J. Whatley.

Sardis, Hale Co.—Carter Tubb, S. Tubb, S. S. Pool.

Macedonia, Hale Co.—Letter and funds.

Pleasant Hill, Hale Co.—J. Caddie, R. P. Tubb.

Friendship, Hale Co.—H. P. Griffin, T. Kinney.

Mt. Zion, Hale Co.—J. W. Suttle, B. Stephens, D. Snead.

Shiloh, Hale Co.—J. M. Heard.

Fellowship, Hale Co.—W. Griffin.

Concord, Hale Co.—J. W. Suttle, J. W. Waters, R. O. Harris, R. R. Richardson, J. White.

Hepzibah, Hale Co.—J. Huff, P. Harris.

Ocmulgee, Hale Co.—O. H. Perry, M. C. Curry, C. C. Smith.

Union, Hale Co.—W. R. Martin, J. E. Stringfellow, R. Redding.

Ephesus, Hale Co.—L. Nichols, D. Gentry.

Siloam, Hale Co.—W. H. McIntosh, W. B. Lawson, Porter King, I. B. Vaiden, C. C. Huckabee, D. R. Lide, J. H. Lee, E. B. Woodfin, A. J. Battle, A. B. Goodhue.

Antioch—J. Frasier.

Mt. Gilead—A. M. Perry.

Selma—Jno. Haralson, J. W. Hudson, Abner Williams.

Pine Flat—J. Vanderslice, W. M. McCullough.

Mars Hill—J. S. Ford, W. B. Cureton, J. Kynerd.

The organization was completed by the election of Rev. J. S. Ford, Moderator, and A. B. Goodhue, Clerk.

A letter from Mars Hill church, petitioning to become a member of this body, was read, and the petition granted.

Adopted the Order of Business of the last session, as the Order for the present one.

Appointed committee on Preaching: Deacons of Mars Hill church—J. W. Suttle, J. White, W. A. Bishop.

Invited ministering brethren and all members of churches composing this Association, present but not delegates, to take seats and participate in the deliberations of the body.

Suspended the Order of Business and adopted the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That when this body adjourns, it will adjourn to meet with the Hopewell church.

The committee on Preaching announced that Rev. S. R. Freeman will preach to-morrow morning, at 10 o'clock, and be followed, after a short recess, by the Rev. A. J. Battle. That, on Monday morning, the Revs. Carter Tubb and B. Stephens will preach.

On motion of Brother Battle,

Resolved, That this Association cordially approves of the establishment of the Baptist Union, of West Alabama, recently organized at Mt. Pleasant church, Hale county, and affectionately urges the churches to encourage its objects by their presence and prayers.

Appointed committee on Finance: C. C. Huckabee, J. W. Melton, J. W. Hudson.

A letter of Correspondence from the Tuskaloosa Association was received.

Appointed committee on Letters and Documents: I. B. Vaiden, Porter King, J. H. Lee.

After prayer, by Rev. S. R. Freeman, adjourned to meet at 9½, A.M, Monday.

MONDAY, 9½, A.M.

Prayer by brother Griffin.

The Clerk not being present, brother J. W. Suttle was requested to act as Clerk, *pro tem.*

Appointed delegates to corresponding Associations, as follows, viz:

Alabama—W. H. McIntosh, S. R. Freeman.

Bigbee—S. C. Trammill, C. C. Huckabee.

Tuskaloosa—W. A. Bishop, T. J. Beck, J. W. Suttle.

Pine Barren—Jno. Haralson, Abner Williams.

Unity—J. M. Heard, Benj. Stephens.

Shelby—H. P. Griffin, J. W. Suttle.

Mulberry—H. P. Griffin, Carter Tubb.

Appointed delegates to the Alabama Baptist State Convention—J. S. Ford, E. S. White, J. W. Melton, A. Mathews, W. R. Martin, T. J. Beck, H. P. Griffin, Carter Tubb, Robert Harris, J. W. Suttle, W. A. Bishop, A. Smith.

Reconsidered the resolution passed on Saturday, by which it was determined to hold the next session with the Hopewell church, and resolved, that when this body adjourns, it will adjourn to meet with Mt. Pleasant church, Hale county.

Appointed Auditing Committee—J. H. Lee, N. G. Roberts, J. F. Howell.

Report of Committee on Education adopted.—Appendix A.

Report of Auditing Committee, to the effect that they had examined the Report of the Treasurer and found it correct, adopted.

Report of Committee on Foreign Missions adopted.—Appendix B.
Report of Committee on Temperance adopted.—Appendix C.
Report of Committee on Finance adopted.—Appendix D.
Adjourned.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Prayer by brother W. B. Lawson.

Report of Committee on Letters and Documents considered. This report presented the fact that brother Benj. Stephens was ordained by the Mt. Zion church, on Saturday before the first Lord's day in August last. The letter of the Ocmulgee church says there appear on their list of membership the names of many persons, of whose whereabouts they have, for a considerable time, had no knowledge, and asks what is best to be done in such cases. This interrogatory was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of W. H. McIntosh, C. C. Huckabee, J. H. Lee, S. R. Freeman, and J. S. Ford, to report next session.

Appointed Committee on Obituaries.—I. B. Vaiden, John H. Lee, Porter King.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools adopted.—Appendix F.

Report of Committee on Domestic Missions adopted.—Appendix G.

Report of Committee on the Religious Instruction of the Freedmen adopted.—Appendix H.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due to those friends who have so bountifully entertained the delegates during the session.

Appointed Committee on Widows' and Orphans' Fund—Carter Tubb, W. A. Bishop.

Appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon next session—Rev. S. R. Freeman, Rev. J. S. Ford, alternate.

The Moderator appointed the Chairmen of Standing Committees, as follows, viz:

On Education—Rev. A. J. Battle.
On Temperance—H. P. Griffin.
On the Religious Instruction of the Colored People—I. B. Vaiden.
On Domestic Missions—Rev. J. M. Heard.
On Sunday Schools—C. C. Huckabee.
On Foreign Missions—Rev. A. J. Kynerd.

Adjourned to meet with the Mt. Pleasant church, Hale county, on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October, 1869.

J. S. FORD, *Moderator*.

A. B. GOODHUE, *Clerk*.

RECEIVED of A. B. Goodhue, Clerk, fifty-five dollars, for printing twelve hundred copies of these Minutes.
November 12, 1868.
J. J. TOON,
Proprietor Franklin Printing House.

APPENDIX.

A.—REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee think it only necessary at the present time to report the condition of the denominational institutions of learning located within the boundaries of the Association, though not under its control. The Judson Female Institute has commenced its present session under the direction of Rev. A. J. Battle, as Principal, with encouraging prospects. The only obstacle in the way of its highest success is founded in the depressed condition of the country. It is justly entitled to the distinction it has hitherto enjoyed—that of being the first among the Female Seminaries of the State.

The Howard College, under the Presidency of E. Q. Thornton, A. M., has largely increased the number of its pupils in the Preparatory and Primary Departments, though the number of students in the Collegiate Course is not so large as it would seem reasonable the reduced rates of board, tuition, &c., together with the superior educational facilities afforded, would attract. Your Committee think that they have abundant reason to believe that next to the sustaining of the preaching of the Word, is the moral and religious training of our children, at home and in the Sunday School. It is our highest duty and interest as a denomination, to support by our benefactions, our patronage, and our prayers, our institutions of learning.

Respectfully submitted.

A. B. GOODHUE, *Chairman.*

B.—REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

To Christianity this is prominently the age of opportunity. The field of labor was never larger, nor whiter, than at this time. In many places of the world, where the ambassadors of Christ would have once been spurned, he is now hailed with the fondest delight. Many places once closed to the glad tidings of the gospel, have been thrown open, and the heralds of the cross have been invited to come in and possess them. Along the shores of benighted Africa outposts of Christianity have been established, and wide realms beyond invite her onward. Within the last five years, Australia, the West Indies, New Zealand and the Society Islands have been, to some extent, reclaimed, and are now provinces added to our field of labor.

The effect and power of the gospel, the success of the cross, and the conquests of the church, are enough to excite our profoundest gratitude. But, when we contemplate the sad condition of the many millions of souls, (within even the boundary of this field,) who have never heard of the hope of Israel—of the sinner's friend, who are living without hope, and without God in the world, stranger to the promise of eternal life—

our hearts are saddened. Think of Europe—so learned, so refined, so valorous! yet what misery in her palaces, what stains upon her conscience, what infidelity in her midst, and what despair around her death-beds.

Then, think of old Asia, famous in sacred history as the land of the Savior's nativity; in which he preached his own gospel, and constituted his church—to what depths of darkness and superstition she has fallen. And poor Africa: Oh! the depths of the gross darkness and superstition in which that people dwell.

As your committee have not the last annual report of the Board, they cannot give any definite information as to the number of Missionaries now employed in foreign fields; nor can we say anything as to their present need and general success.

The recent success, however, of brother Crawford, is encouraging. His prospects for yet greater success are brightening. His field of labor is growing, and larger accessions are being made to the church.

Let us learn their need, and supply it, however great the sacrifice may be. "Freely ye have received, freely give."

The past and present success of the gospel—the victory of the cross and the promise of the Savior, excite our deepest gratitude, and inspire the hope of the ultimate success of the gospel of the Son of God—when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of the Lord and his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. A. BISHOP, *Chairman.*

C.—REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

When we contemplate the evils of intemperance in the use of strong drink, and estimate its enormities as they develop themselves around us, that heart must indeed be callous, which will not open its fountains of sympathy for the relief of suffering humanity. Intemperance is blighting whatever is honorable, lovely, and of good report. It breathes upon our prosperity and strength, and they wither away; it lays its destructive finger upon the beautiful and mysterious frame-work of the human body, which God has built as a dwelling place for the human soul, and its life is dried up, and its very bones crumble back to dust. It touches man's intellect, and the light and glory of the human mind go out in thick darkness. It lays its grasp upon the delicate cords of the human heart, and this fountain of social affection is changed into a stagnant pool of sluggish and bitter waters, exhaling their poisonous vapors along the very channels where love once flowed to bless and beautify. In its fiendish aspirations, it reaches up towards the human soul: that glorious representative of Divinity on earth, and life immortal yields to the death that never dies.

The problem to be solved by the friends of Temperance, is to secure the abandonment of the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage. Disguise it as we may, the best security is the absence of temptation. Total abstinence is the only tower of strength, the only citadel or refuge, the only place of security against the dangers of drunkenness.

The evils of intemperance are, we fear, greatly enhanced by a serious wrong, practiced by members of Christian churches, not from necessity, but to gratify their ambitious desires—*the selling of intoxicating liquors.* When we regard the Divine declaration: "Woe unto him who putteth the bottle to his neighbor's lips," we can but feel that he who does so, is accountable for what cometh from those lips while under the influence of the intoxicating draught. However well he may plead the protection of the laws of the land, yet there is a higher law than the enactments of the Commonwealth. Does such protection clear his conscience? Will it make reparation for loss of time, character, health, and soul? Will it relieve the widow, whose outward badges of mourning are but faint emblems of the darkness that hangs like night upon her spirit? Will he carry it with him to the judgment bar? Whose image and superscription will it bear in God's book of remembrance?

We offer for your adoption, the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend each minister who has the care of a church, to preach at least one sermon on the subject of Temperance, during the next Associational Year.

Respectfully submitted. S. C. TRAMMILL, *Chairman.*

D.—REPORT ON FINANCE.

Your Committee have received the following amounts, viz:

For Associational purposes	$ 22 10
For Minutes	62 75
For Home Missions	16 50
For Widows' and Orphans' Fund	29 45
Total	$130 80

Respectfully submitted. C. C. HUCKABEE, *Chairman.*

E.—REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

What subject can be more important or interesting to parents, to teachers, and to the whole community? Children are the hope of the world. Around them cluster the tenderest affections, the warmest desires, the brightest anticipations, while by their comparative innocence, their confiding dispositions, their susceptibility to good and evil impressions, and the momentous consequences which must result from their early training, they plead for such a culture as will best secure their earthly happiness and their immortal bliss. The claims of society and the promptings of affection, unite with the Divine command to make it a sacred duty to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The loveliest children who have ever gladdened the earth with the sweet blossoms and rich fruit of their youthful piety, have been such as most deeply felt their sinfulness, and their need of a Saviour. The great point, then, to be aimed at in the religious instructions of children, is to bring them, in penitence and contrition, to the Cross, that the blood of the Lamb may be applied, by faith, to wash

away the pollutions and guilt of sin. They must be taught that they are sinners, that they are lost, and that no human effort—nothing but the atonement of Jesus Christ—can save them. Finally, we would urge every parent and Sabbath School teacher to examine this subject carefully, as they value the immortal souls confided to their charge. Their future destiny, for time and for eternity, depends, in a great measure, upon the instructions given in the tender years of childhood. That priceless diamond, the soul, is there engraved with letters which can never be erased. See to it, that truth only is employed in moulding the religious opinions and character of children. We fear that Baptists are fearfully remiss in this great duty. Our principles are such as to leave us without excuse for the least neglect. The danger of our unconverted children is clearly perceived by us. Out of Christ, they perish forever. They must be converted, or be lost. What more thrilling incentives to fervent prayer and constant faithfulness, can we require? Let us show our children that we believe their danger, and point them to the remedy. Let us bring them, poisoned as they are by the sting of sin, to Him of whom the brazen serpent was a type. Let us strive, by every means, to preöccupy their hearts with sacred truth. Let us labor to train them for heaven more than for earth; to save their deathless souls, remembering that the soul is a jewel which may shine forever in the Redeemer's crown, when the body shall have mingled for ages with its native dust. We are fully convinced that every church ought to have a Sabbath School, and that every member ought to attend regularly, unless providentially prevented. All who can teach, ought to do so, and such as are not prepared to teach, ought to learn. And let it be remembered that their presence in the Sabbath School will encourage others. If all the members of our churches would engage in this work, and attend the Sabbath School regularly, instead of running about in search of something new, or talking politics, and reading political papers on the Lord's day, which he has commanded us to keep holy, laymen would become divines, and the pulpit would have to advance higher, and then would our churches be the light of the world indeed. From the reading of the letters, we find that but six churches have Sabbath Schools. We therefore suggest the adoption of the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, That each church having a Sabbath School, be requested to report the number of pupils and teachers.

Respectfully submitted. A. J. KYNERD, *Chairman.*

F.—REPORT ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your Committee offer, for your adoption the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That the depressed condition of many of the churches of this Association, calls for earnest prayers and energetic efforts to "strengthen the things that remain," lest they become utterly extinct.

Resolved, That the churches be requested to solicit contributious, however small, from every member, between this and the 1st day of January ensuing, for the purpose of raising a fund to supply the destitute, within the bounds of the Association, with the Word of Life.

Respectfully submitted. S. R. FREEMAN, *Chairman.*

G.—REPORT ON THE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OF COLORED PEOPLE.

Your Committee offer as their report, the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That in the command to "preach the Gospel to every creature," we recognize now, as we have done in the past, our duty to the colored population; and earnestly recommend to the Ministers of this Association, to meet, as far as in them lies, this solemn obligation.

Respectfully submitted.

W. H. McINTOSH, *Chairman.*

H.—REPORT ON WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

We, the Commtitee on the distribution of funds raised for the widows of deceased ministers, beg leave to report that we made an equal division between sisters Tubb and Summers, of the amount placed in our hands, ($27 60,) at our last Association. Finding this insufficient to supply their real necessities, we made special application to *each* church composing this Association, for pecuniary aid in their behalf, and succeeded in getting only $7 00: five of which was from the Newbern church, and the remainder from Fellowship church. This was distributed likewise.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. S. POOL,
S. C. TRAMMILL, } *Com.*

I.—REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

Your Committee would report, that among those that have left the walks of men and gone, as they humbly trust, to the "Better Land," during the last Associational year, they find the names of three who, they think, are deserving of special notice, and a place in the minutes of this body.

Rev. Henry O. Hagard, was born in Perry county, Ala., Oct. 11th, 1817, and died April 23d, 1868. He made a profession of religion and united with the Ocmulgee church, in 1833. After a few changes in location, he was received, by letter, into the fellowship of Hepzibah church, in 1858, and with it retained his membership till his death. His Christian character was so consistent, and walk so orderly, that he received from the brethren well acquainted with him, the endearing appellation of dearly beloved in the Lord. For many years he officiated as deacon, and filled the office well; and, believing himself called to the work of the ministry, he was ordained a preacher of the gospel of Christ, in the year 1864. From that time until his death, he exhibited great devotion to the work, and zeal in the service of his Divine Master, and gave promise of much efficiency in his ministry. His sudden death was a severe blow to the churches over which he had charge; and while they deeply lament his death, yet they feel it would be simple to wish him back again on earth, for verily he died in the faith of the gospel he preached, and his reward is that of the righteous.

Brother Wm. N. Wyatt, a member of the Siloam Baptist church, Marion, was a deacon of that church for twenty-six years. None knew his duty better, nor discharged it more faithfully. He truly won for himself, by fidelity to his trust in the execution of this office, the worthy commendation of the Apostle, when he declared, "They that have used the office of deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith."

Deacon Wyatt was identified not only with the religious enterprises of his State, but afforded aid and comfort to the various institutions fostered by Southern Baptists. He was a warm advocate of education, and hence a prominent member on the Board of our Denominational schools. He was appointed on the Board of Domestic Missions, S. B. C., at the time of its organization, and remained a most active and conservative member till the time of his death. He died suddenly, on the 10th of last March, and his loss is profoundly felt by the church of which he was an active, devoted member.

Brother Wm. M. Pleasants was also a member of the Siloam Baptist church, Marion, and by his strict conformity to Christian principles and interest manifested in the cause of his Master, his brethren elected him to the responsible office of deacon, which he performed in a most acceptable manner for several years; until declining health forced him to resign. Timidity of disposition was a peculiar feature of this valuable brother; still, love for Christ enabled him, to a considerable extent to overcome this, and he thereby rendered himself a highly useful and efficient member and officer. He was also, for many years, a member of the Domestic Mission Board, S. B. C., and though residing at a considerable distance from the Mission room, yet he was exceedingly prompt and regular in his attendance on its meetings. He lingered long and suffered much, until calmly and quietly he breathed his last, on the 18th of April, 1868.

Respectfully submitted.

J. M. HEARD, *Chairman.*

J.—TREASURER'S REPORT.

WILLIAM B. LAWSON, *Treasurer of Cahaba Association.*

DR.

To cash for Minutes and Associational Fund	$ 76 50
To Domestic Missions	26 90
To Widows' Fund	28 15
	$131 55

CR.

By A. B. Goodhue's receipt	$ 76 50
By M. T. Sumner's receipt	26 90
By S. S. Pool's receipt	28 15
	$131 55

We, the Auditing Committee, find the above account correct.

J. H. LEE, *Chairman.*

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES, FOR 1868.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	PASTORS.	Received by Baptism.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excommunicated.	Restored.	Deceased.	Total in Fellowship.	Associational Fund.	Minute Fund.	Total.
Hopewell	Perry	S. R. Freeman	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	.....	5 50	5 50
*Siloam	Perry	W. H. McIntosh	12	3	13	4	..	7	219	4 00	6 00	10 00
Ocmulgee	Dallas	J. S. Ford	11	7	4	....	..	2	248	1 00	3 00	4 00
Pine Flat	Perry		2	3	3	....	..	1	47	1 00	2 00	3 00
Friendship	Perry		31	16	3	1	3	..	94	2 00	3 00	5 00
Providence	Perry	J. S. Ford	69	7	3	....	..	3	161	1 00	2 00	3 00
Sardis	Perry	Carter Tubb	....	3	....	....	..	1	91	1 00	2 00	3 00
Selma	Dallas	J. B. Hawthorne	33	43	11	2	..	3	166	.....	11 25	11 25
Union	Hale	J. A. Hill	1	4	3	2	..	3	55	1 50	1 50	3 00
Mt. Pleasant	Hale	J. T. Beck	....	....	3	....	..	..	75	.....	2 00	2 00
Mars Hill	Perry	J. S. Ford	....	14	....	....	..	1	61	1 00	3 00	4 00
Mt. Hebron	Hale	J. T. Beck	....	....	....	....	..	..	16	1 00	1 00	2 00
Pleasant Hill	Hale	Carter Tubb	4	4	5	....	..	..	38	1 00	1 50	2 50
Concord	Perry	J. S. Ford	3	....	....	2	..	1	154	1 00	3 00	4 00
Mt. Giliad	Perry	J. M. Heard	16	1	3	2	..	..	57	60	1 00	2 10
Antioch	Perry	R. S. Jones	....	5	2	....	..	4	37	.....	1 50	1 50
Hepzibah	Perry	J. M. Heard	....	2	1	3	..	2	78	1 50	1 50	3 00
Pisgah	Perry		11	....	5	....	1	..	221	2 00	3 00	5 00
Fellowship	Perry	J. A. Hill	....	4	10	3	..	..	151	1 00	3 00	4 00
Ephesus	Perry		....	8	....	1	..	3	37	.....	1 00	1 00
Mt. Zion	Bibb	Richard Wood	1	2	3	1	..	4	50	1 50	1 50	3 00
Greensboro	Hale		....	....	....	....	..	..	....	.....	2 00	2 00
Macedonia	Hale	J. T. Beck	....	....	....	....	..	..	34	.....	1 00	1 00
										$22 10	$62 75	$84 85

*This refers to the White membership. Thirty-four colored persons were baptized. It is impossible to furnish an accurate return of the colored members.

A. B. GOODHUE.

Rev. D. Shaver, D.D., Editor. J. J. Toon, Proprietor.

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